

From: Phyllida@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 3:59pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

Dear DOJ,

Due to the various continuing suits against Microsoft, I am forced to exit Microsoft Explorer (the company's browser and entrance to the internet) and bring up AmericaOnLine to read and send email. My other choice would have been, again, to close Microsoft Explorer and to bring up Microsoft Outlook Express which, as you well know, is split off from Microsoft Explorer. But isn't it ironic; AOL is suing Microsoft over its overweening powers, yet I can use AOL for both purposes: to receive and send email AND TO USE THE INTERNET but I CANNOT use Microsoft Explorer to use both services. Just who IS the monopolist here?

And last I looked on the tv screen, AOL, which also has a pretty good control of the NYC cable market, is spending zillions on advertising its AOL Time Warner direct cable hookup. And doesn't AOL have control of some magazines? and some TV stations? and some books? and some records? Excuse me, while I fall down the rabbit hole, said Alice.

As a stockholder of Microsoft, Sun Micro and others and fortunate seller of AOL (at breakeven) and as user of Apple, Microsoft Word etc and AOL since 1985, AND attempted user of Netscape which has been largely defunct since being taken over by AOL, I would find the not so sly tactics of the AOL/Sun etc gang who use stockholder monies to launch extensive and expensive litigation (which then becomes their *raison d'être*) laughable if it weren't so harmful to consumers, stockholders and profitably run businesses. It isn't just off balance sheet limited partnership that drain assets.

My support for Microsoft is based on many years of using their products and services which have always worked smoothly, reliably and efficiently which is, after all, what I pay for. As a stockholder I find Microsoft reports earnings in a conservative manner and maintains a strong balance sheet both of which indicate the company tends to its business and is not wasting stockholder assets. Everytime the market sneezes I don't feel as though I am going to lose my entire investment in Microsoft as I might with others. If the interest is the consumer and the stockholder, Microsoft will win hands down. If not, we'll see just how fair the US markets really are.

Ruth Sumners
January 28, 2002